

# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

## **SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH**

**2024**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

### **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is a category of death in children ages 1 to 18 that remains unexplained after a thorough investigation, including an autopsy; and

**WHEREAS**, each year there are approximately 400 cases of SUDC in the United States – including more than 200 younger children ages 1 to 4 – who die without a clear cause or explanation; and

**WHEREAS**, while less common than sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), which occurs before the first birthday, SUDC is an important health concern deserving of increased public awareness and research; and

**WHEREAS**, SUDC is the fifth leading category of death among children ages 1 to 4 in the United States; and

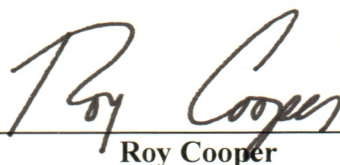
**WHEREAS**, there currently is no way to predict or prevent SUDC as its cause is unknown; it is hoped that future research will identify means by which SUDC can be prevented; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the dedicated efforts of organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, the SUDC Foundation, medical professionals, medicolegal death investigators, and volunteers who are working to better understand the causes of SUDC, improve the health of infants and children, and provide much-needed hope and support for those families grieving the heartbreaking sudden, unexplained death of a child; and

**WHEREAS**, Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month provides an opportunity to honor the memory of the young lives that ended too soon, show encouragement and support for the families and loved ones devastated by their loss, and increase public awareness of SUDC and the ongoing search for answers;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March, 2024, as “**SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-eighth day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-eighth.